UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: June 3, 1968

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Martindale
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Trotter

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

[redacted] who is a James Earl Ray look-a-like suspect, signed an escrow contract to purchase a home at Bonita, California, on 5-14-68, for $51,000. He gave a promisory-type check for $5,000 and indicated he had a $65,000 certified check in his hotel room. [redacted] claimed to be employed by International Harvester Company, Bloomington, Illinois, and recently transferred to the San Diego area. On 5-14-68, he attempted to purchase a 1967 Plymouth at Chula Vista, California, displaying the escrow contract. An automobile salesman gave the keys of the vehicle to [redacted] who then drove off in the car. [redacted] did not return the vehicle and as a result thereof, a description of the vehicle and of [redacted] was placed in an all-points bulletin by California authorities. Investigation indicated that the financial claims and maneuvers were fictitious and fraudulent.

On 5-28-68, the Covina, California, Police Department advised our Los Angeles Office that the Plymouth stolen in Chula Vista, California, had been recovered abandoned in Covina on 5-28-68, and had apparently been abandoned for several days. The Covina Police Department reported that the 1967 Plymouth had been involved in an accident with a car driven by one Allen Krause, Azusa, California, who stated the driver of the Plymouth identified himself as [redacted] and had given a check to reimburse him for damages. This check was found to have been stolen at Huntington Beach, California. Krause was shown a photograph of subject Ray and he stated that the driver of the Plymouth was not identical with Ray.

REC-106 44-38861-4161

The Covina, California, Police Department suspects that [redacted] is responsible for five armed robberies of real-estate agents in the Chula Vista area. Person of [redacted] description had contacted real-estate agents about home purchase as pretext before robbing them.

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49

Memorandum to M[illegible]eLoach
RE: MURKIN

[redacted] Huntington Beach, California, advised that on 5-15-68, a man (generally fitting previous description of [redacted] driving a gold and black car (same color as stolen 1967 Plymouth) came to her home in response to a sign in front indicating it was for sale by owner. This man indicated he was interested in buying the home and [redacted] left him in her living room to arrange for a later appointment. She was gone for approximately ten minutes and when she returned, the man indicated he would obtain $500 in cash and return the following day to handle details. After this man left, [redacted] discovered her checkbook and numerous credit and identification cards as well as her driver's license had been taken from her purse which had been in the living room. Several of the items stolen from [redacted] have been recovered.

We are continuing investigation to determine if subject Ray is involved in this matter in view of the fact that [redacted] examined photograph of James Earl Ray and indicated photograph somewhat resembled man who stole her identification but could not make any positive identification, and also that other individuals stated that James Earl Ray resembled person known as [redacted]

Allen Thompson, manager of the St. Francis Hotel, Los Angeles, California, which is a former residence of subject Ray, advised an individual who he knows as [redacted] recently inquired about the relationship between Ray and one [redacted] Thompson recalls during period of March 1 through March 17, 1968, while he was operating the switchboard at the hotel, an individual called for Ray and left a message for him to call [redacted] collect. According to Thompson, calls were subsequently received from this individual from Atlanta and New Orleans. Thompson advised that later a person identifying himself as [redacted] came to the hotel during the period March 1 through March 17, 1968.

Thompson reported that [redacted] may be the subject of an outstanding warrant, and that he has seen [redacted] on an infrequent basis in the vicinity of Hollywood and Western area, Los Angeles, during the past six months. Thompson advised he has no knowledge of associates of [redacted] his residence past or present, his automobile, or his employment, if any. Thompson said sometime after the first of the year he believes he expelled [redacted] and another Caucasian male from the parking lot of the St. Francis Hotel where they were sleeping in an automobile. Thompson said that whenever and wherever he observes [redacted] he will immediately notify the FBI. We are thoroughly checking this matter out.

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50